

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A rapid exchange stent delivery catheter which includes an inner tubular member and an outer tubular member slidably disposed thereon. The inner tubular member and the outer tubular member have rapid exchange type guide wire openings. The guide wire opening of the outer tubular member is preferably shorter in length than the guide wire opening of the inner tubular member to protect the inner workings of the catheter. The outer tubular member may include a guide wire access sleeve having a guide wire ramp extending into the guide wire lumen of the inner tubular member. The guide wire sleeve may be a separate component from the remainder of the outer tubular member to facilitate efficient manufacture.

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10:** The undersigned hereby certified that this paper or papers, as described herein are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail mailing label number of: EV 315613144 US, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 24th day of February 2004.

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